

10/18/76  
COMPLAINT

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Chairman  
Inter-American Commission on  
Human Rights  
Organization of American States  
Washington, D. C. 20006  
United States of America

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny  
Exemption(s): B6  
Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full  
( ) Classify as    ( ) Extend as    ( ) Downgrade to     
Date    Declassify on    Reason   

Name: Olga Talamante

Nationality: United States of America

Address: [ ]  
United States of America;

wishes to communicate to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, for the purposes established in its Statute and Regulations, the following:

Name of Persons Whose Human Rights Have  
Been Violated:

Osvaldo Gasparini, Ruben Piazza, Eduardo Gonzalez,  
Eduardo Grutsky, Juan Gonzalez, Julio Varela (hereinafter referred to as the men prisoners).

Address:

Sierra Chica Prison, Unit 2, Olavarria, Argentina.

Description of the Violation:

From approximately November 14, 1974, until the present, the men prisoners have been incarcerated in Azul prison and Sierra Chica prison, Unit 2, Olavarria, Argentina, under the following conditions:

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Box 4853

1. All of the men prisoners are housed in solitary confinement in individual cells.

2. After March 1976, the visiting privileges of the men prisoners were cut back even further from their previously low level.

3. Osvaldo Gasparini had a serious heart operation shortly before his arrest on November 10, 1974. After that date, Gasparini had a number of heart seizures during which he lost consciousness; the prison guards ignored him during these attacks. The prison officials have provided only cursory medical attention despite numerous requests by Gasparini and his relatives. Gasparini is presently in extremely poor health.

4. Because of serious protein and vitamin deficiencies in the prison diet, Ruben Piazza is suffering from significant hair loss and tooth decay.

Why the Men Prisoners Could Not Seek Judicial Recourse:

The men prisoners complained on numerous occasions to the prison officials about general and specific conditions, but no remedial action was taken. The inaction and insensitivity of the judiciary in other actions involving the men showed that further efforts at legal action would be fruitless and might even delay further their release.

Supporting Material:

1. Sworn affidavit of Olga Talamante (attached). Attention is drawn in particular to ¶¶24, 38.

The above actions violate Article I of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. "Every human being has the right to life, liberty and the security of his person." These actions also violate Article XXV of the same document: "[Every individual] also has the right to humane treatment during the time he is in custody." Therefore, I respectfully request that the Commission investigate these violations.

  
OLGA TALAMANTE

October 18, 1976

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